

PROGRAM COMMITTEE.

A number of inquiries are reaching this office as to how a place may be had upon the program for the next meeting, at Fresno, April 18, 19 and 20. The Chairman of the Committee is Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur and the Secretary is Dr. Harry E. Alderson. At the last meeting the By-Laws were amended so as to place upon the Program Committee the Secretary of the Genito-Urinary Section and the Secretary of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Section. These Secretaries are, respectively, Dr. Wm. E. Stevens, San Francisco, and Dr. Wintermute, San Francisco. Those who intended to present papers at the Fresno meeting had better write to Dr. Wilbur or Dr. Alderson at once. It will probably be a very full program—and a very interesting one; a preliminary outline will be published in the next issue.

THE A. M. A. LAW SUIT!

The facts about the widely heralded suit "against the American Medical Trust" are almost funny. The A. M. A. has not yet been sued and all the legal battle of the last five years was an attempt to compel a district attorney, who knew better, to bring such a fool suit! A short item in a recent issue of the *Journal A. M. A.* explains the whole matter. Here it is:

THE INCORPORATION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

On last Monday, December 20, the Supreme Court of Illinois rendered a ruling—it was not a decision, as the newspapers stated, but simply a ruling—in the case of Lydston vs. The State's Attorney. The newspapers, in sweeping statements—inspired?—have carried the impression that the ruling is against the American Medical Association; that the officers, including trustees, are holding their offices illegally; that a new election must be held immediately, etc. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is the old story; it is merely another step in the case started about the time of the meeting of the American Medical Association in St. Louis in 1910, at which time Lydston tried to compel the state's attorney to bring quo warranto proceedings against the Association. The American Medical Association has not yet technically been brought into the case; thus far the issue has been between Lydston and the state's attorney. The technical announcement of the ruling just made is "Hoyne, State's Attorney, vs. People ex rel; Lydston; petition certiorari denied." The state's attorney tried to get a decision from the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court declined to hear the case at this time and therefore denied the writ of certiorari.—*Journal A. M. A.*

INDIGENT TUBERCULOTICS.

The problem of the non-resident, indigent tuberculous has been and is one of the hardest problems to work out in the fight against tuberculosis. Who is to care for or treat or properly guide these unfortunates? It seems to be one of those cases of what is everybody's business is nobody's business. A plan has been suggested, however, and agreed upon by the State Board of Health and the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, which apparently offers at least a partial solution of the difficulty. These two bodies have endorsed, and will ask the next Congress to

enact, a bill providing for the subsidy, as it were, of certain hospitals which come up to standards approved by the Public Health Service and which will care for this class of patients. It seems quite clearly to be a government burden; an indigent non-resident is an anomalous animal; he is really not a just burden to the state he happens to be in, nor can he justly be said to belong as a charge upon the state he has left. If he is made a burden equally to all the states, as all suffer more or less alike relative to their population, etc., his care becomes more equably distributed. It is very much in point of Mr. Spencer's sociologic axiom that "the greater the area over which any given evil is distributed, the less will it be felt by any individual in that area." The tentative bill will be found in full in another part of the *JOURNAL*. We should give it all the help that we can.

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

A bill for state health insurance is to be introduced into the New York legislature this month through the efforts of the American Association for Labor Legislation. This bill provides that all manual workers and all others earning less than \$100 a month shall be insured and that the cost of insurance is to be divided between employer, worker and state. The insurance will provide each workman with medical attention including hospital and nursing care and the necessary medicines and surgical appliances, and with a cash benefit equal to two-thirds of wages for a maximum of twenty-six weeks in a year. The bill offers an insured women obstetrical aid at her confinement, and offers the family a small funeral benefit should the wage earner die. The insurance is to be carried through mutual associations of employers and employees under state supervision.

The administrative details for providing medical care are to be worked out in consultation with the medical profession. Already the American Medical Association has appointed a committee consisting of Dr. Alexander Lambert of New York, chairman; Dr. Henry B. Favill of Chicago, and Dr. Frederic Cotton of Boston, to co-operate with the American Association for Labor Legislation. Physicians in California which has appointed the first state commission on Social Insurance should be particularly alive to the importance of this movement and alive to the necessity of maintaining close contact with the newly created California commission.

ABUSE OF THE MAILS BY PHYSICIANS; DANGER!!

Dr. Geiger, of the State Health Department, has been good enough to prepare the following remarks on this most important subject. It would be calamitous if, through our own slovenliness, we should be deprived of the privilege of sending specimens by mail:

The increased use of the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory of the California State Board of Health by physicians of the State is commendable. The large number of specimens examined is indicative that the laboratory is serving the public to the maximum of its usefulness in the control of